

### **Organiser's Comments**

We were very lucky with the weather not only on the day but in the preceding few days. 4 days earlier, there was widespread sheet ice in the Finish area as well as in the drop off / turn around area for the coaches. Luckily this melted.

The Malvern Hills, as some of you will know, do not have any really large car parks and, for big events, it is necessary to bus competitors to a suitable start point. I trust none of you had to wait too long in the cold to catch a lift. Hopefully you all had time to enjoy the magnificent views from the top of the Malverns.

I must congratulate all the HOC helpers for doing an excellent job on the day, making it go so smoothly. It was a great team effort. HOC came 2<sup>nd</sup> on the day; if I had had a run climb, would it have made any difference – probably not!

My thanks to Mark Dyer for his helpful comments and reminders. And a big thank you to you all for coming to this event and making the work involved worthwhile.

Rollo Rumford  
HOC

### **Controller's Comments**

Having lived in Malvern many years ago, I have always loved the Hills and this was a welcome opportunity to revisit well-known trails over which I took many happy runs. From time to time I used to encounter alternative views, generally grumbling about relative isolation from so-called civilisation, but I used to respond to such folk by inviting them to spend a few years in Surrey for example before becoming irrevocably set in their opinions.

It came as a bit of a shock yesterday, therefore, to hear certain criticisms, one lady even going so far as to declare "I hate the Malverns!". It is certainly true that there are really only three modes of orienteering progress there, climbing, descending and traversing, and anyone brought up on the Wiltshire beech woods or the New Forest moors might find new muscles being called into play. It was quite a challenge for the Planner to keep the climb within the rules and the courses were undoubtedly, if unavoidably, physical. For my part I thought Clive made very good and thoughtful use of the excellently-mapped area, and (I think) I would have enjoyed running his courses.

There were a surprising number of mispunches. Whilst there have been instances of the wrong control stakes put out in events, in the vast majority of cases the control numbers are correct and it is therefore worth taking a few more milliseconds to check them. Planners have a horror of their courses being found too easy, and will try to

insert little extra challenges towards the end when competitors' minds are focussed on the downhill to the Finish. Countless times have I come unstuck at that point, and I still can't learn!

Excellent organisation, welcoming hosts and beautiful weather rounded out a splendid event to which I enjoyed being able to contribute.

*Mark Dyer (BOK)*